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Removal of Militia Officers. In Arizona the governor may discharge any militia officer upon address of both houses of the legislature or on recommendation of the board of examination.⁵⁰ Any commissioned officer of the Missouri militia may be removed on recommendation of his immediate commanding officer, or of the inspector general, or any general officer or the governor, by a board of five commissioned officers, one of whom is a surgeon.⁵¹ In Washington, staff officers may be removed by approval of the governor.⁵²

Forfeiture of Office. In New Jersey and Oregon the commission of certain misdeeds automatically deprives an incumbent of his office. In New Jersey any elective or appointive officer of the state, county or city forfeits his office for any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.⁵³ In Oregon any member of a state board or commission who without valid reason fails to attend two consecutive meetings forfeits his office.⁵⁴

Removal of Attorneys. A cognate subject is the removal of attorneys. In Alabama, a prosecution for the removal or suspension of an attorney may be instituted by the state bar association or by the central council thereof.⁵⁵ In California an attorney or councillor may be removed or suspended by the supreme court or any department thereof, by any district court of appeals, or by any superior court.⁵⁶

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Indiana Bureau Legislative Information.

Codification and Revision of Statutes. The condition of the statutes of most of our American States is a disgrace. More and more, statutes have come to regulate the affairs of man and yet little effort has been made to make it possible for man to know the laws which govern him. Statutes are piled on statutes without clear distinction between what is in force and what has been repealed, and so indefinite in form and wording as to make interpretation impossible.

"Ignorance of the law excuses no one" and yet in most States the citizen must depend in many important matters upon the guess of the compiler or annotator. In many States compilations are prepared by private parties and are sold at exorbitant rates.

Codification and revision are resorted to spasmodically by the States to clarify the law but scarcely are the laws revised or codified when

⁵⁰ Laws, 1912, Regular Session, p. 443.

⁵¹ Laws, 1909, p. 682.

⁵² Laws, 1905, p. 436.

⁵³ Laws, 1913, p. 116.

⁵⁴ Laws, 1909, p. 185.

⁵⁵ Laws, 1903, p. 346.

⁵⁶ Laws, 1911, p. 848.

along comes a new session of the legislature and the revised codes are again thrown into confusion.

To keep the statute law revised after it has once been put into clear and systematic form is the problem and yet a review of the legislation indicates that this end has not been kept in view. Commissions on revision and codification are temporary and a permanent body is not provided to carry on their work by fitting new enactments to the code. In one State only has there been any legislation to overcome the defective methods. Wisconsin in 1911 created a revisor whose work is permanent. Between sessions the revisor revises parts of the law and prepares it for adoption. New laws at each subsequent session affecting any part revised are made to conform to the revision. Thus each part revised is kept consistent through each succeeding legislature. In New York the long labors of the board of statutory consolidation were safeguarded by submitting proposed laws to the board to make them conform. Out of this grew the system of bill drafting carried on in the New York legislature.

The legislation of 1913 shows considerable effort to correct the defects of the statute law but no constructive effort to prevent future defects. Numerous laws were enacted for the revision of part or all of the law in different states.

Connecticut provided for the codification of the school laws and employment of children by the state board of education and for a report to the general assembly in 1915 for adoption.

Georgia created a commission of seven to investigate and consider the subject of a general revision and alteration of the civil and criminal procedure.

Iowa created a joint committee of the two houses to have supervision of the compiling of the acts of the general assembly for the purpose of making a new supplement to the code of 1907. The work is done by an editor appointed by the committee.

Louisiana provided in 1912 for a commission of three lawyers and two business men to revise and prepare amendments to the corporation laws; and sets forth the ideal for the commission to be that "one uniform and harmonious law upon the whole subject may be enacted; it being the true intent and meaning of this act that said commission shall compile all the laws relating to corporations in one act, in concise, simple and lucid language so that persons of ordinary intelligence may know what the laws of the State relative to corporations comprise; and in order to secure such a result the said commission shall carefully expunge all

obsolete and inoperative provisions, simplify the language of those which are retained, correct the incongruities, supply such new provisions as will add to the completion of the act and arrange the whole in a logical and natural order under proper headings, titles and sections."

Michigan created a commission to compile the laws "without alteration" with notes and references and an index together with a complete digest of the decisions of the supreme court relative to the general laws.

Maine appointed a commissioner by name to revise, collate, arrange and consolidate all the general and public laws in force "preserving unchanged the order and arrangement of the present revised code and retaining the phraseology thereof." All superseded matter is to be dropped, and the compiler is to suggest "such contradictions, omissions, repetitions and imperfections as appear in the present revised statutes and the mode in which the same may be best reconciled, supplied, amended and corrected. References to the decisions of the Maine supreme court and the Supreme Court of the United States are to be added. The law does not require the revision to be submitted for adoption by the legislature.

In line with this license to an individual to practically interpret the law of the State to its citizens are the enactment in Maryland of a law legalizing the *Annotated Code of Public Civil Laws of Maryland*, edited by George P. Bagby, and a similar approval of a private compilation in Washington.

Massachusetts in 1913 required the State Board of Health to codify the health laws and report the codification to the legislature. In 1914 Massachusetts directed the secretary of the commonwealth to compile the laws relating to towns; the bureau of labor statistics to compile the laws relating to labor; and the state board of education to compile the laws relating to education.

Nebraska continued in 1913 the revision commission appointed in 1911, for eight months to finish and publish the Revised Statutes of Nebraska. Submission to the legislature is not required hence this is merely a compilation.

New York provided in 1912 and 1913 for consolidation, codification and revision of the laws relating to estates of deceased persons and practice in surrogate courts. That State in 1913 also authorized the commissioner of banks to appoint a commission of five to codify the banking laws and submit a complete revision "adopted to present banking conditions and based upon the experience of the banking department in the work of supervision and liquidation of failed institutions."

North Dakota, by Act of 1913, entered into a contract with the Lawyers' Corporative Publishing Company for the compiling, codifying, annotating and indexing a compiled edition of the laws of North Dakota. The law specifies that on the fly leaf there shall be a notice that the laws are compiled by authority of the State of North Dakota. The secretary of state is authorized to pass upon the completion of the contract and purchase as many copies as may be necessary for the State.

Oklahoma approved in 1913 the codification and revision of the laws provided for in 1911.

Pennsylvania directed the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare a revision and codification of the laws of the State and present the same to the legislature for adoption.

Constitutional Convention Commission. The New York legislature in 1914 passed an act providing for a commission to compile and furnish data for the delegates to the constitutional convention. The act was passed contingent upon the approval of the calling of a constitutional convention by the people. The question was decided affirmatively in April, 1914, and the new commission took effect the first of May.

The commission consists of the president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly and three citizens appointed by the governor. The commission serves without pay but is authorized to employ clerical, expert and other assistants. The law provides that the commission shall collect, compile and print information and data which it may deem useful to the delegates to the constitutional convention. The information and data in printed form are to be supplied to the delegates before the opening of the convention. The commission may also in its discretion provide for the circulation of such matter among other persons. The commission has an appropriation of \$5,000 and is carrying on its work in coöperation with the Legislative Reference Department of the State Library.

Recall of Judicial Decisions. The first State to adopt the recall of judicial decisions as a part of its judicial practice is Colorado. The constitutional amendment providing for such recall was adopted at the November election in 1912 and went into force in January 1913. The provisions first prohibit all courts except the supreme court from passing upon the constitutionality of any law or city charter or amendment adopted by the people in a city, and then go on to say that any decision